

In the Claims

Please amend Claims 3 and 11. Amendments to the claims are indicated in the attached "Marked Up Version of Amendments" (page i).

3. (Amended) A microscope slide stainer comprising:

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a slide housing into which at least one microscope slide is inserted, said housing having a cavity into which liquids are dispensed and which contains a volume of liquid over the at least one microscope slide;

a liquid dispenser, said dispenser being capable of movement under microprocessor control so as to align the dispenser with a slide; and

a liquid aspirator, said aspirator being capable of removing liquid from the cavity.

11. (Amended) A method of staining slides comprising:

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inserting a slide into a slide housing, said housing having a cavity into which liquids can be dispensed and which contains a volume of liquid over the at least one microscope slide;

moving the slide housing under microprocessor control into alignment with a liquid dispenser;

dispensing liquid into the cavity of said housing, said liquid also contacting said slide; and

aspirating liquid from the cavity of said housing.

REMARKS

Claims 3-16 were rejected under the doctrine of obviousness type double patenting as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,645,114. Without acquiescing to the rejection, in order to expedite prosecution, a terminal disclaimer with respect to the '114 patent is being filed herewith to obviate the rejection.